



"Building Communities Together"

A Networking Tool of HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships

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1999 SuperNOFA Released!

WASHINGTON – Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo announced on Friday, February 26, 1999 the availability of \$2.4 billion in grants to fund HUD programs in communities across the nation this year.

A Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) issued by HUD notifies communities and groups around the nation of available grants for a broad range of programs to help build affordable housing, boost employment, revitalize distressed public housing, fund fair housing enforcement and provide assistance to homeless people.

This year's single SuperNOFA completes the consolidation and streamlining of HUD's grant announcement process. Under the SuperNOFA system, grants are awarded more quickly and efficiently to local and state governments, public housing authorities, non-profit and faith-based groups, and other organizations.

"We are making the process of getting HUD grants easier, faster and cheaper," Cuomo said. "State and local officials, business people, and non-profit groups will spend less time and money filling out forms and more time and money creating jobs, building housing and strengthening communities."

In past years, funding notices were published throughout the year with varying rules, timelines, and sets of criteria for evaluation of applications. A basic goal of the SuperNOFA is to make it easier for applicants to coordinate the

use of two or more competitive grant programs. By having information about all HUD competitive grant programs that are used to address a single issue area, applicants may gain a better understanding of the multiple resources available to address their needs and opportunities. The application process encourages coordination through the submission of a joint application, allowing organizations to coordinate the use of these funds.

In response to President Clinton's directive to use language that is easily understandable to the general public, the new SuperNOFA application is written in plain language, making it less bureaucratic and more user-friendly than previous documents.

HUD has also prepared a guidebook for funding applicants, *Connecting With Communities*, available through the SuperNOFA Information Center, which explains the process and provides funding information for HUD partners at the state and local level, and in non-profit, faith-based and other community organizations. Application and other information as well as copies of HUD program regulations are now available to help prepare and submit SuperNOFA funding requests.

The SuperNOFA Information Center is open during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. To reach the Information Center, call 800/HUD-8929 or 800/483-2209 TTY. Application information is also on the Internet at <http://www.hud.gov>.

Community 2020

On March 23 at 5:00 p.m. HUD will host a Community 2020 Forum focusing on Appalachia and the unique problems facing rural areas. We also will be screening a new documentary film on Appalachia, "American Hollow" by Rory Kennedy, the story of an Appalachian family struggling to survive in a disenfranchised and forgotten corner of America. The forum will be held in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Cafeteria at 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC.

The Community 2020 series brings together dynamic leaders to explore the future of America's communities and regions -- where they are headed and what they will be like in the next 25 years and beyond.

Because seating is limited, please RSVP by Friday, March 19 by calling the Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships at 202-708-2404 or 800-308-0395. Make plans to arrive early as the doors will open at 4:15 p.m. We hope you will join us for this very special Community 2020 session.

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Cuomo Encourages Renewed Commitment to Overcoming Poverty

On February 2, 1999, Secretary Cuomo addressed the National Summit on the Churches and Welfare Reform convened by the Call to Renewal outside of Washington, DC. Call to Renewal is a national movement led by Jim Wallis, editor and co-founder of the Sojourners Magazine. The Call to Renewal is mobilizing faith-based groups to bring a more civil voice of religion to our nation's public discourse and renew focus on overcoming poverty.

Over 650 conference participants, including activists from 37 states and 29 denominations, heard the Secretary's address in which he acknowledged that while we have had great successes in welfare reform, the job is not yet done. The Secretary encouraged the diverse group to work across denominations and to partner with government and the private sector to overcome the challenges that still plague our poorest people and poorest areas of the country. He also encouraged them to be the voice and agents for change in communities.

"Unless you can help not only the body, but also the soul and the spirit, you won't really solve the problem," Cuomo said. He asked aloud why

Americans hear one set of values in weekend sermons but "we live such a different set of values" the rest of the week. Cuomo said racism and other forms of injustice, including economic, educational and environmental injustice, don't reflect the values taught in our houses of worship. While HUD and other government agencies offer tools and resources for addressing poverty, faith and community-based organizations are the vehicles for change.

The Secretary encouraged the audience to strive for higher forms of justice for all Americans. He reminded them that twenty percent of America's children are at risk of going to bed hungry at least once a month and another 600,000 Americans are sleeping on the streets "and it doesn't faze us anymore," "We are more willing to pick up an aluminum can to recycle before we bend down to help our brothers and sisters."

In closing, the Secretary encouraged those in attendance to work through HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships and Community Builders in HUD field offices to forge partnerships and get connected to resources and technical assistance in their communities.

Important Resources

Shared Visions – The Pine Ridge Building Summit, July 30 - August 7, 1999-- If you're interested in learning about Indian Country and helping American Indian families become homeowners, then you may want to consider participating in the Pine Ridge Building Summit this summer. Volunteer today to help build 50 homes on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The Oglala Lakota Tribe needs volunteers with a willingness to roll up their sleeves and work hard! Spend part of your summer vacation in

South Dakota, helping 50 Native American families build their new homes. The Pine Ridge Building Summit, will in addition to the volunteer home build, feature seminars and workshops on mortgage lending, non-profits, homeowner-ship counseling, and volunteer efforts.

Look to "Building Communities Together" at the end of March for more on Pine Ridge. To obtain more information and to volunteer, call 1-888-3VOLUNTEER or visit the HUD Web page at www.hud.gov/sharedvisions.html.

Featured Best Practice

The City of **Escondido, CA** utilized a comprehensive approach to develop its **Consolidated Plan**. It encouraged active citizen participation and the involvement of various agencies and providers critical to meeting the objectives of the Plan.

The City distributed 7,342 surveys (75% in English, 25% in Spanish). One thousand of these were delivered door-to-door in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The remaining were distributed to agencies and organizations involved with health, social services, homelessness, seniors, other special needs groups and through the library, Chamber of Commerce, and the Planning and Water Departments. The City also met with a variety of focus groups and conducted seventeen key informational interviews with service providers.

Though it was the biggest initial obstacle, City's efforts in achieving maximum citizen participation showed a clear and strong commitment to making the Con Plan show the community's vision. The door-to-door survey was the City's strategy to increase the level of resident involvement. The success of citizen participation strategies utilized reinforced the City's suspicion that public hearings were the least effective manner for getting the desired level of citizen input. Some major players were the Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Empowerment Organization, EYE Counselling and Crisis Center, NCIC, Joslyn Senior Center, Fellowship Center, Serenity House.

Linda Peek, Manager, Neighborhood and Organizational Development, City of Escondido, 619-432-4531.

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This information has been edited from the John J. Gunther Best Practices on HUD's web site at <http://www.hud.gov/ptw/menu.html>.